The mission of Juneau Audubon Society is to conserve the natural ecosystems of Southeast Alaska, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations.

Monthly Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.
Dzantik’i Heeni Middle School Library

Safari in Kenya
In November, a group of Alaskans made a three-week wildlife and photography safari to major game parks in Kenya. Their slide presentation will include the lodges, safari vehicles, scenery and wildlife as well as Nairobi, the Kenyan countryside and a visit to a Maasai Village. The game parks visited include Samburu, Amboseli, Masai Mara, Mount Kenya and the Rift Valley including Lake Baringo and Lake Nakuru.

Note: this program, originally scheduled for March, was cancelled last month because of weather.

Centennial Celebration
This year marks the centennial celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge system.

Pelican Island National Bird Reservation was created by executive order of President Theodore Roosevelt on March 14, 1903.

Located in Florida’s Indian River, about 45 miles from Cape Canaveral, it became the first refuge within the National Wildlife Refuge System. It was the first area of land and water specifically set aside for wildlife alone, and administered for that purpose by the agency that has evolved into the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.


Learn more about this remarkable system and 2003 anniversary observances at http://refuges.fws.gov/
A Message from the board

In the past Juneau Audubon Society has received a rebate from National Audubon Society dues for each member to cover chapter expenses. That money has been used to cover printing and postage for The Raven, which is our single largest annual expense. This year printing and mailing The Raven will cost our chapter about $1,400.

The NAS is in the process of eliminating direct financial support to chapters. Their contribution to chapters has already been cut 50% and will be gone entirely by 2005. In light of these circumstances, we are evaluating options for communicating with our members.

Among the possibilities are the following:

• Posting much of the information now in The Raven on our website, http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org
• Increasing the number of e-mail subscribers
• Increasing our fund-raising activities to finance The Raven
• Charging members who want to continue receiving a hard copy an additional fee to cover production costs

Without adopting some combination of these options for The Raven, we will be forced to use money that could otherwise fund education and advocacy, such as nature guides for school libraries and addressing local issues like the Juneau airport expansion and development at Berners Bay.

Our role in speaking on behalf of a healthier environment for all living things is more crucial than ever. When you receive a newsletter survey form either in The Raven or by mail, please return it to help determine the best use our financial resources. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Send e-mails to president@juneau-audubon-society.org or raven@juneau-audubon-society.org

To help save paper and chapter money, send an e-mail to kingfarm@ptialaska.net to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact raven@juneau-audubon-society.org.

A special word of thanks to Debbie Groves, one of the unseen volunteers for Juneau Audubon Society. If you get a paper Raven, Debbie picked it up from the printer, attached your mailing label, sorted it for bulk mailing, counted it and delivered it to the post office. It’s no small task month after month, and a contribution that is much appreciated. ed.
My favorite Juneau bird is the Wandering Tattler, here a rarely seen migrant. The Latin species name, *incanus*, means gray. Its medium shade, and subtle white head and underpart patterning, perfectly match the color and pale lichen patterning of the boulders and slate flatrocks where I have observed it locally: on the shore south of Thane, on west Douglas Island south of Outer Point, and near Point Bridget.

It is called “wandering” because it winters sparsely over a vast area from Washington to Peru, Hawaii, and New Zealand, and turns up as far as east Asia. Its “tattler” title reflects its sharp, high piping, richly musical yet penetrating and somewhat hollow calls.

*Incanus* has an almost eerie ability to squat down and disappear among the bumps and hollows of its intertidal boulders. It bobs and teeters its head and body rather like the similar but browner and smaller Spotted Sandpiper. I’ve often watched it adeptly clamber silently about its wet rocks, deliberately extract a morsel, then just disappear into an interstice or just squat and become invisible. Yet its disturbance call is a sharp high *klee-it*, exceptionally jolting and penetrating. On seashores, it favors crustaceans, mollusks, and marine worms.

On the mud flats at the Mendenhall River mouth, I often see its usual rocky shore co-inhabitants: Rock Sandpiper, Ruddy and Black Turnstones, and Surfbird, in numbers. But only twice in 37 years have I seen a Tattler there.

Tattlers breed on alpine mountain streams and ponds. Bob Weeden showed us a nest in the subalpine under Mastodon Dome in the Tanana Highlands. It was a shallow, root-lined hollow on a gravel flat by a stream. The tattler flushed at ten feet, giving a rich *tlee-dl-ee-dl-ee*, revealing four greenish-blue, brown-spotted eggs. It then crouched silently nearby with just its head visible.

Just inland from White Pass north of Skagway, I encountered an adult pair—the only time I have ever seen more than one individual all by itself. A covey of active though incredibly tiny chicks darted about, while both adults flew close, screamed loudly, then played hide-and-seek with me among very rough bedrock terrain intermixed with lots of little ponds.

On the breeding grounds, tattlers feed on the abundant insects, including larvae, as well as amphipods and mollusks.

Once in late May, I found one actively probing the gravel along the shore and shallows of Mendenhall Lake, perhaps imagining it had already arrived at its nesting home.

*If you’d like to be interviewed about one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net*

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Rich Gordon wrote this song in 1953, when he went to Nome, hoping to see one of his favorite birds. But it was 15 years before he got to see his first Wandering Tattler.

Oh, I’ve wandered far out o’er the tundra,  
I’ve patrolled the lonely beach and shore.  
I’ve climbed up the rockiest headlands.  
I’ll wander the barrens evermore.

Oh, they call me the Wandering Tattler.  
I breed on Bourbon Creek near Nome.  
If you look real hard up the creek bed  
And you’re lucky, you’ll find me at home.
Spring Migration Bird Trips

Walks last about two hours. Bring binoculars and/or spotting scope, bird guide, rubber boots, and dress for weather. Please watch local media, our web site at [http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org) and the May Raven for possible schedule changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Leaders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Gull identification trip, Eagle Beach</td>
<td>Meet at picnic table area</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Gus VanVliet and Paul Suchanek</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Berners Bay cruise</td>
<td>Depart Auke Bay Boat Harbor 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Members will be on board as interpreters.</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge</td>
<td>Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd.</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Nina Mollett</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Berners Bay cruises</td>
<td>Depart Auke Bay Boat Harbor 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>8:30 &amp; 1:30</td>
<td>Members will be on board as interpreters.</td>
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<td>May 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge</td>
<td>Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd.</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Deborah Rudis</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>International Migratory Bird Day</td>
<td>Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Bob Armstrong</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd.</td>
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Earth Day

Earth Day will be observed at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center April 19, with activities between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. You can learn how to participate or get more information from Michelle Warrenchukat at mwarrenc@fs.fed.us or by calling the Visitor Center at 789 - 0097 ex. 35. For an overview see [http://www.earthday.org/](http://www.earthday.org/)

8th Annual Berners Bay Cruise

Saturday, April 19:  8:30 a.m.
Saturday, May 3:    8:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

These cruises are a great bargain and one of our chapter’s major fund-raisers. We’ve added an April sailing this year in anticipation of seeing more sea mammals in the bay.

Invite your friends and co-workers to take advantage of this great spring get-away, and help insure that we fill all three sailings. Tickets are available at Hearthside Books at the same low price: $28 for adults and $5 for accompanied children under 12.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898. Note: The COE permits can now be found on line at http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/

Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State’s Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination
P.O. Box 110030
Juneau, AK 99811-0300
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation
410 Willoughby Ave.
Juneau, AK 99801-1795
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

McCarthy — Kennicott River 1. (Reference Number 4-2003-0009) Applicant: Mr. Keith Rowland. Location: Kennicott River Tracks near McCarthy, Alaska. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a bridge across the Kennicott River using two 90-foot long railcars supported with one center piling set by excavating of 20 feet and backfilling with 300 cubic yards of riverbed material. One short piling would be installed on either end of the bridge on the bank requiring excavation and backfill of 100 cubic yards of material protected by 100 cubic yards of rounded boulders. In addition there would be 900 feet by 12 feet graded in the riverbed on the east side of the bridge for a vehicle trail to connect to the old winter road. The trail would run along the high flow channel of the river that floods for three or more days a year. The road would be constructed by side-casting materials to create the road. The total disturbed area would be 0.06 acre of riverbank and 0.26 acre of riverbed. Purpose: To provide access to and from McCarthy across the Kennicott river. Mitigation: The applicant will only work in the riverbed when the river is low. Comments due: March 21, 2003.

Juneau — Lemon Creek 13. (Reference Number 4-2002-1100) Applicant: SECON. Location: Lemon Creek above the Jail facility. Proposal: The applicant proposes the placement of 300 cubic yards of material into .07 acre of the Lemon Creek stream bank. The material would be used as rip rap to armor the river bank. Purpose: To stabilize the creek bank before a stream crossing. Mitigation: None. Comments due: April 17, 2003.

Hoonah — Coho Creek 1. (Reference Number 4-2002-0750) Applicant: Kenneth L. Meserve. Location: Tract “C” of the Hoonah Inter-Airport Subdivision. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 4,800 cubic yards of fill into 1.24 acres of wetlands to create an upland area to construct a recreational vehicle park, a bed and breakfast and motel/restaurant. Purpose: To construct a recreational vehicle park. Mitigation: None. Comments due by April 17, 2003.


(continued on page 6)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits
(continued from page 5)

Sitka—Sitka Harbor 0176. (Reference Number 2-2002-0671) Applicant: Baranof Island Housing Authority. Location: 245 Katlian Street. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge up to 1,400 cubic yards of fill material into the intertidal zone. Additional rip rap material would be added to stabilize the fill material. The applicant will also extend the existing outfall on the northeast end of the property another 15 feet. Purpose: To fill tidelands to create fastland and extend the property lines. Mitigation: The applicant will remove scrap metal material in the tidelands and will avoid eelgrass area located on the northeast portion of the fill. Comments due by March 26, 2003.

Wrangell — Wrangell Harbor 116. (Reference Number 2-2003-0059) Applicant: Wrangell Oil, Inc. Location: Etolin Harbor, Wrangell Oil Dock. Proposal: The applicant proposes to fill approximately 7000 square feet (-0.16 acre) below the high tide line (HTL) in Wrangell Harbor with approximate 3800 cubic yards of shot rock and 400 cubic yards of riprap armor rock. Approximately 30% of the fill would be below the mean high water (MHW). The face of the fill would be stacked approximately 16 feet high tapering to 8 feet and have a slope of 1:4 (horizontal and vertical). Purpose: To create building pad for a convenience store, warehouse, office and laundry mat facility and associated parking. Mitigation: None. Comments due by March 21, 2003.


Ketchikan — Behm Canal 73. (Reference Number 2-2003-0158) Applicant: Don Hazelquist. Location: Pup Island near Ketchikan. Proposal: The applicant proposes discharge of approximately 45.1 cubic yards (cy) of fill including approximately 43.5 cy of native soil and approximately 1.5 cy of concrete onto approximately 685 square feet (.016 acre) of wetlands and tidelands to upgrade and maintain an approximately 3.51 acre recreational property. Work would include: Discharge of approximately 1.5 cy of concrete onto approximately 80 sq. ft. of wetlands for (20) 2' X 2' X 0.5' footings to replace an existing 30' X30' pile supported cabin. Excavate and backfill approximately 17.8 cy of native soil to install a septic tank with an approximately 60 sq. ft. footprint. Excavate and backfill approximately 14.7 cy of native soil and beach material for an approximately 395' long X 1' deep X 1' wide trench to accommodate a 4" sewer outfall line terminating at the -4.9' elevation. Discharge approximately 11.1 cy of excess overburden onto approximately 150 sq. ft. After-The-Fact boat haul out installed in 1978 and consisting of approximately 300 lb. scrap metal anchor made from a cleaned old generator piston. Install a 4' diameter steel mooring buoy anchored by approximately 65' of 7/7" steel chain and a 3' X 3' X 3' cement block anchor. Purpose: Upgrade and maintain an existing recreational property. Mitigation: None. Comments due by April 10, 2003.


Ketchikan — Tongass Narrows 555. (Reference Number 4-2002-1096) Applicant: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Location: Dog Salmon Avenue, Saxman. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 2,000 cubic yards of fill including 1,500 cubic yards of shot rock and 400 cubic yards of crushed rock and 100 cubic yards of asphalt onto 0.67 acre of forested wetlands. Purpose: Construction of a Public Safety building, parking lot and storage area. Mitigation: None. Comments due by April 17, 2003.

Ketchikan — Refuge Cove 1. (Reference Number M-1995-0549) Applicant: Pat Lahey. Location: Mile 8, North Tongass Highway, in Refuge Cove. Proposal: The applicant proposes a time extension to install a 6” gray water sewage outfall line. Place approximately 25 cubic yards of shot rock and riprap for fill and bank stabilization, and construct a four (4) steel pipe supported 6’ wide x 80’ long floating treated wood dock. The outfall line would be installed in a 2” wide x 20” deep trench waterward to an elevation of -4’ MLLW and backfilled with excavated materials. This project was originally permitted as permit number 2-950549, on January 17, 1996, and expired on December 31, 1998. The project is being proposed exactly as originally permitted. Purpose: To stabilize the bank, install a gray water sewage outfall line, and construct a private floating dock. Mitigation: None. Comments due by March 26, 2003.

Ketchikan — Whale Passage 6. (Reference Number M-2001-1029) Applicant: Whale Pass Community Association. Location: Along Forest Service Road 3065, Whale Pass. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install a 6’ X 160’ floating dock and 4 steel pilings adjacent to an existing boat ramp. Float would ground on the inside on the fill placed for the boat ramp. Permit 2-2001-1029, Whale Passage 6, was issued on November 1, 2001 to allow the discharge approximately 950 cubic yards of clean shot rock, approximately 100 cubic yards of 18” minimum clean rip rap, and approximately ninety 16’ long by 2’ wide by 8’ deep, pre-cast concrete planks onto approximately 6,400 square feet (0.15 acre) of intertidal area below high tide line, to construct an approximately 180’ long by 20’ wide boat launch ramp. Purpose: Provide a tie-up for

Proposal: The applicant proposes to moor a 32-foot by 85-foot steel administrative barge and associated docking and helicopter pad facilities. Two anchors would be used to secure the facility in 30-feet of water. There are two proposed sites – Kluanil Island and Clover Bay, 41 miles Southeast of Craig.
Purpose: To provide logistical support to the Craig Ranger District from April through October 2003. Mitigation: None.
Comments due by April 17, 2003.

Looking for a new vacation idea?
Consider registering for an Audubon camp.

With new and traditional programs in store, a wide variety of offerings are available. You could explore tidal pools along the coast of Maine, take a hike in the Green Mountains or the Rockies, seek out the natural treasures of Chesapeake Bay, or paddle a glacial lake while osprey soar overhead and the call of the loon can be heard in the distance.

To get more information and to sign up, check out http://www.audubon.org/educate/cw/

EAGLECHAT

To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat or e-mail Nina Mollett at ninam@alaska.net to get signed up.

Date: March 10
Subject: snipe
Today along the dike trail, low tide, river bottom at the end of runway I watched two Common Snipe engage in what we took to be some stage of courtship behavior. Two birds circled one another, one with its tail fanned up above its back. This happened several times in quick succession before one flew off a short distance. I believe there were three snipe in the area and as they are somewhat cryptic about their sexual orientation, I’ve no clue as to what combination was doing the circling behavior. The nearby Killdeer was unimpressed.

Date: March 11
Subject: Fish Creek observations
I went out to Fish Creek about 10:30 this AM and saw my first sapsucker of the season (and got an OK photo) as it was foraging basically at ground level or perhaps 3 feet up (maybe the sap is just starting up the trunk). Waterfowl diversity was excellent as I counted 225 wigeon (including 2 male Eurasians), 10 green-winged teal, 2 canvasbacks, and 3 gadwalls. The most exciting sighting, however, was what I believe to be a hybrid male mallard X pintail. Unfortunately it refused to show its head for a digiscoping shot although I have attached a photo of it (just above the arrow) sleeping with a bunch of mallards. Note that its legs are less orange, it lacks the chestnut breast of the other mallards, its back and tail is colored like a male pintail, and the portion of the speculum visible is green instead of dark blue. Although you can’t see it, it had a bill like a male pintail. I can’t say I’ve ever seen a bird like this (except in a photo somewhere) although I’ve seen thousand pintails. There were also at least 6 killdeer present down toward the houses stretching toward the boat launch.

Date: March 19
Subject: Spring (I think)
At the Mendenhall wetlands today at high tide, there were 2 short-eared owls hunting across by Bayview, a dozen or so each of wigeon and scaup and a solitary swan. Just warm and wonderful out there. And on Sunday I heard my first blue grouse hooting out near the glacier.

Date: March 19
Subject: short eared owls
A knowledgeable friend reports four (4) short eared owls (seen in a group) today on the airport side of the Mendenhall flats. Also a single Trumpeter Swan (ID by size). I saw what a bird sitting in a cottonwood near Lemon Creek that looked like a hawk owl but could not get close enough to get a good id.

Marilyn and I were thrilled March 6 to look out the window of our Douglas Island home and see two magnificent Trumpeter Swans.
Mike Miller
Every membership supports Audubon’s vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, The Raven
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

### Audubon Society Membership Application

_____20 (1-year introductory rate) _____15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City/State/Zipcode ____________________
Telephone number ____________________

_____My check for $______is enclosed _____Please bill me

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529

If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with $10 to: Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn.: membership. **NOTE:** if you wish to join National Audubon Society, please send your check with the membership application to Boulder, CO.

### Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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**Secretary:** Deanna MacPhail, 789-0651, bandmac@gci.net
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